

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
 - providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;
 - receiving by the event detector information of an event from an information provider;
 - determining by the event detector a level of importance of the event relative to a user of the digital assistant;
 - weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an ~~amount of~~ intrusion to the user if the digital assistant handles ~~takes an action to resolve~~ the event itself, wherein the intrusion to the user is determined by rules specified by the user;
 - handling performing by the digital assistant the ~~action to resolve~~ the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is greater than or equal to a first threshold and less than or equal to a second threshold; and
 - contacting by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the user.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13-16, 20-25, 27-29, 31-32, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Horvitz et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0046521).

Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Horvitz.

Horvitz discloses a system that provides controls and displays for acquiring user preferences, inspecting behavior, and guiding learning and decision policies of an adaptive communications prioritization and routing system. (Horvitz at paragraph [0007].) More specifically, the system enables a plurality of information associated with electronic messages to be automatically prioritized by a message urgency system for transmittal to a user or system. The message urgency system can employ classifiers that can be explicitly and/or implicitly trained to prioritize or triage one or more received messages according to a learned importance to the user. (Horvitz at Abstract.).

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:
providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;
receiving by the event detector information of an event from an information provider;
determining by the event detector a level of importance of the event relative to a user of the digital assistant;
weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an intrusion to the user if the digital assistant handles the event itself, wherein the intrusion to the user is determined by rules specified by the user;
handling by the digital assistant the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is greater than or equal to a first threshold and less than or equal to a second threshold; and
contacting by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold.

Applicant submits that Horvitz does not disclose or suggest providing a

digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector, handling by the digital

assistant the event without contacting the user, or weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an intrusion to the user if the digital assistant handles the event itself, wherein the intrusion to the user is determined by rules specified by the user, as recited by claim 1.

First, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Horvitz of an event detector and an agent selector as part of a digital assistant. The Final Office Action cites Figure 3 of Horvitz, as well as paragraphs [0075] and [0076], as disclosing this feature. (Final Office Action at pg. 5, point 7.) However, Figure 3 of Horvitz only discloses a “message control” which includes alerting options 210, color and audio options 220, deferral options 230, threshold adjustments 240, message quantity adjustments 250, and summary of importance 260. (Horvitz at Figure 3.) Paragraphs [0075] and [0076] of Horvitz further describe these components of “message control” as options that can variously modify and adjust settings of a message. These are not separate operating components of a digital assistant. Nor are they the same as a digital assistant with an event detector and an agent selector. Applicant can find no disclosure or suggestion of such a feature anywhere in Horvitz.

Second, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Horvitz of a digital assistant handling an event without contacting the user. The Final Office Action cites “the assistant, depending on the comparison of thresholds, can either queue the message or immediately forward it to the user to be seen...viewed as corresponding to applicant’s claimed ‘resolve the event.’” (Final Office Action at pg. 3, point 3.) However, this is not the same as a digital assistant *handling an even without contacting the user*. This is just a delay tactic for sending an event to a user to be eventually handled by the user. Applicant can find no disclosure or suggestion in Horvitz of a digital assistant handling an event itself.

Third, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Horvitz of an agent selector weighing a level of importance of an event against an intrusion to the user if the digital assistant handles the event itself, wherein the intrusion is determined by rules specified by the user. The Final Office Action cites a “deferral capability” and “gleaning from observation” convenient times to deliver a message. It also cites the ability to queue a message or immediately forward it to a user as disclosing this feature. (Id.) However, these relied-on features of Horvitz do not disclose *weighing a level of importance against an intrusion to the user if the assistant handles the even itself, the intrusion determined by rules specified by the user.* Horvitz does not disclose an assistant handling an event itself, so it cannot disclose weighing against an intrusion to the user if the assistant handled the event itself. Nor does Horvitz disclose an intrusion being determined by rules specified by a user. Applicant can find no disclosure or suggestion of such a feature anywhere in Horvitz.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Horvitz. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. As a result, claims 2-10 are also patentable over Horvitz.

Independent claims 11, 21, 27, and 31, as amended, also recite, in part, providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector, handling by the digital assistant the event without contacting the user, or weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an intrusion to the user if the digital assistant handles the event itself, wherein the intrusion to the user is determined by rules specified by the user. As discussed above, Horvitz does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, claims 11, 21, 27, and 31, as well as their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Horvitz for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.